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Marvel

5th May 1995
No 197 80p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

HAROLD

Win

a Thomas bed!

Traffic safety! Poster!

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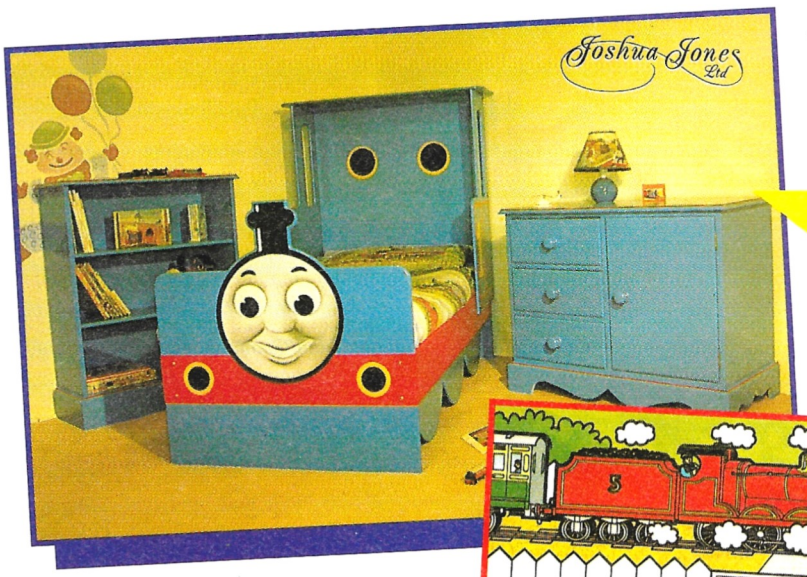
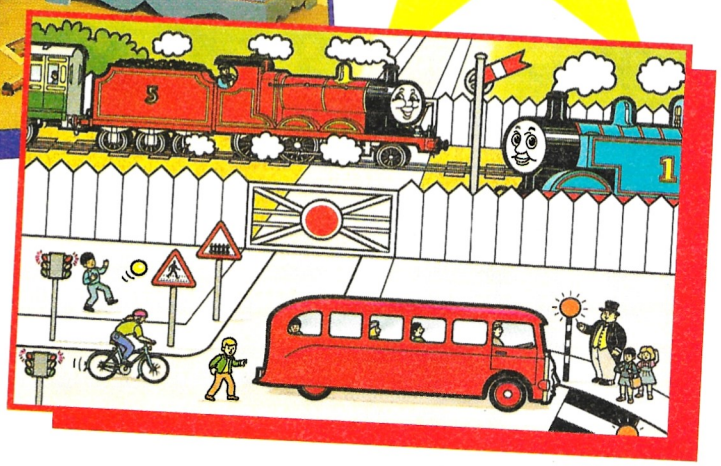
ALL AB

Notice Board!

Peep! Peep! With stories, features and fun, this issue of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends has even more for you to read and enjoy! Thomas and Bertie have trouble with signals and traffic lights in our first story, Too many delays! And you can find out about rail and road safety in our splendid feature! Duck helps some special visitors to find a new home in our seasonal story, The flying visitors! while Thomas has a great idea to build a new Home for horses! Plus, there are some facts to read about Thomas's friend, Harold the Helicopter and another great poster for you to keep! Peep! Peep!



Win a fabulous Thomas bed!



Safety on pages 8 & 9!

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ABC AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS CONSUMER PRESS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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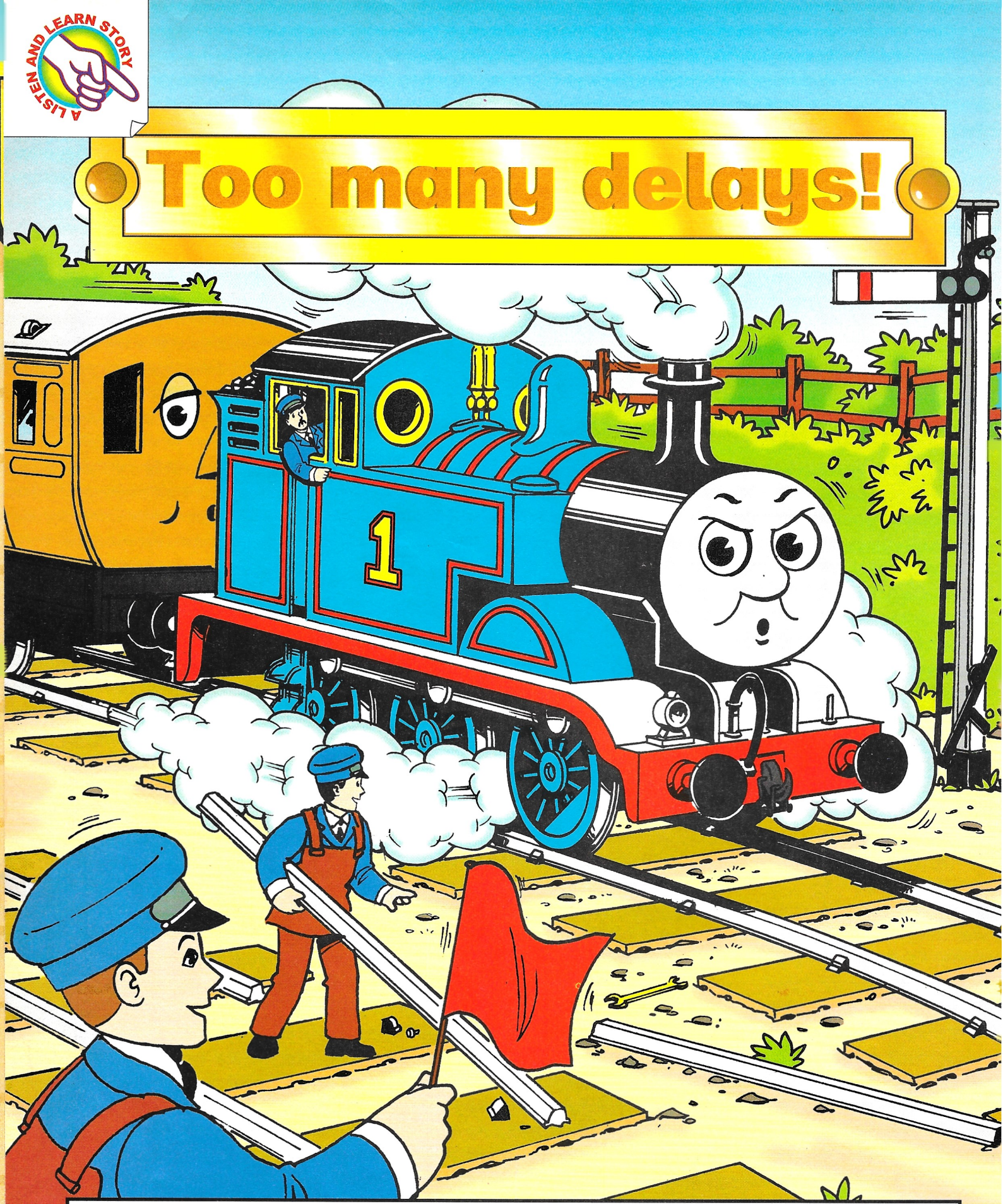
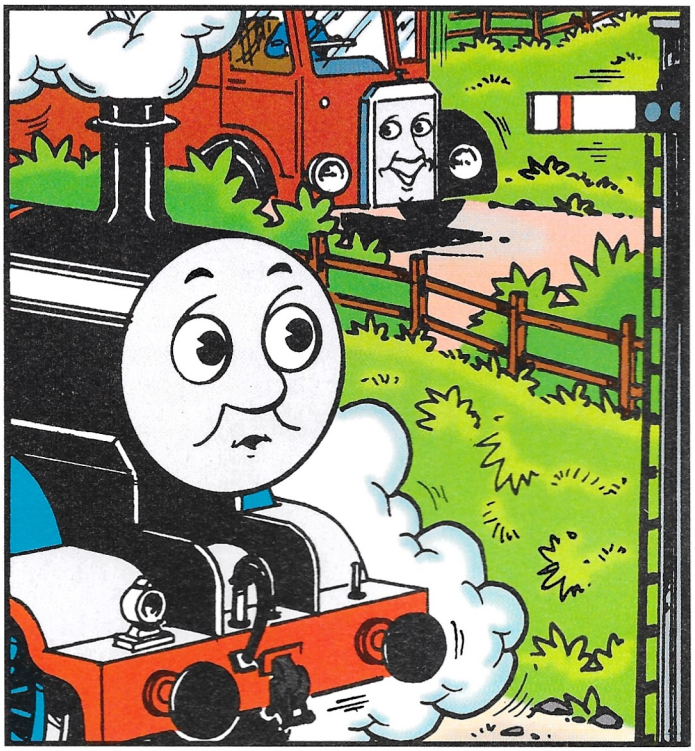
A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

Too many delays!

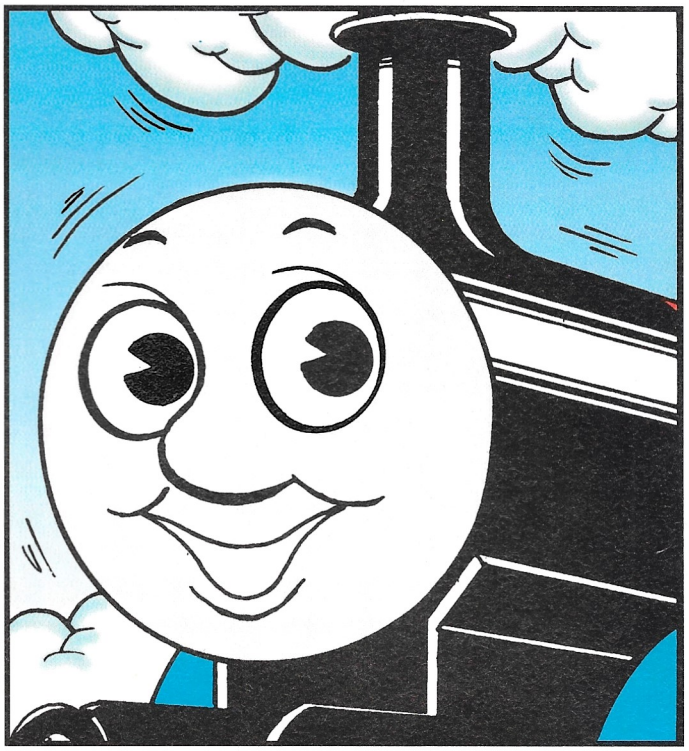


1. Thomas was taking the early morning passenger train on his branch line. But he could only go slowly because workmen were busy laying some new track.

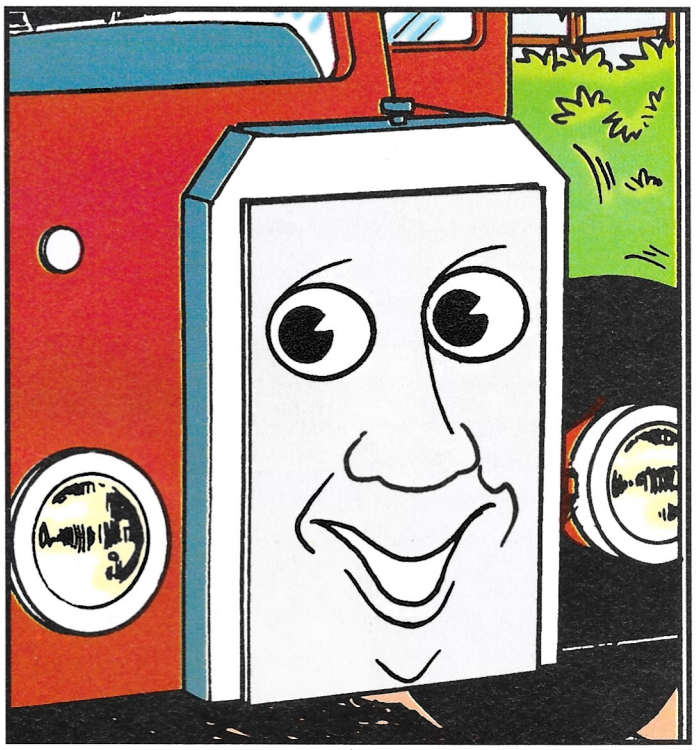
2. The little tank engine found that he was delayed even further when he had to wait at a signal. "Hurry up!" he cried. "My passengers must get to work!"



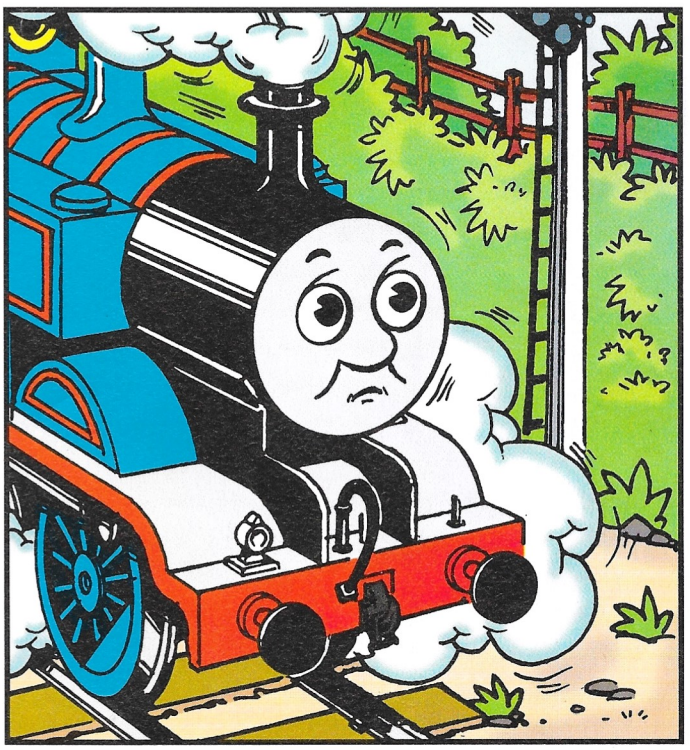
3. Just then, Thomas spotted Bertie the Bus collecting people at a bus stop. "Everyone should catch the bus, Thomas!" teased Bertie. "It's much faster to travel by road!"



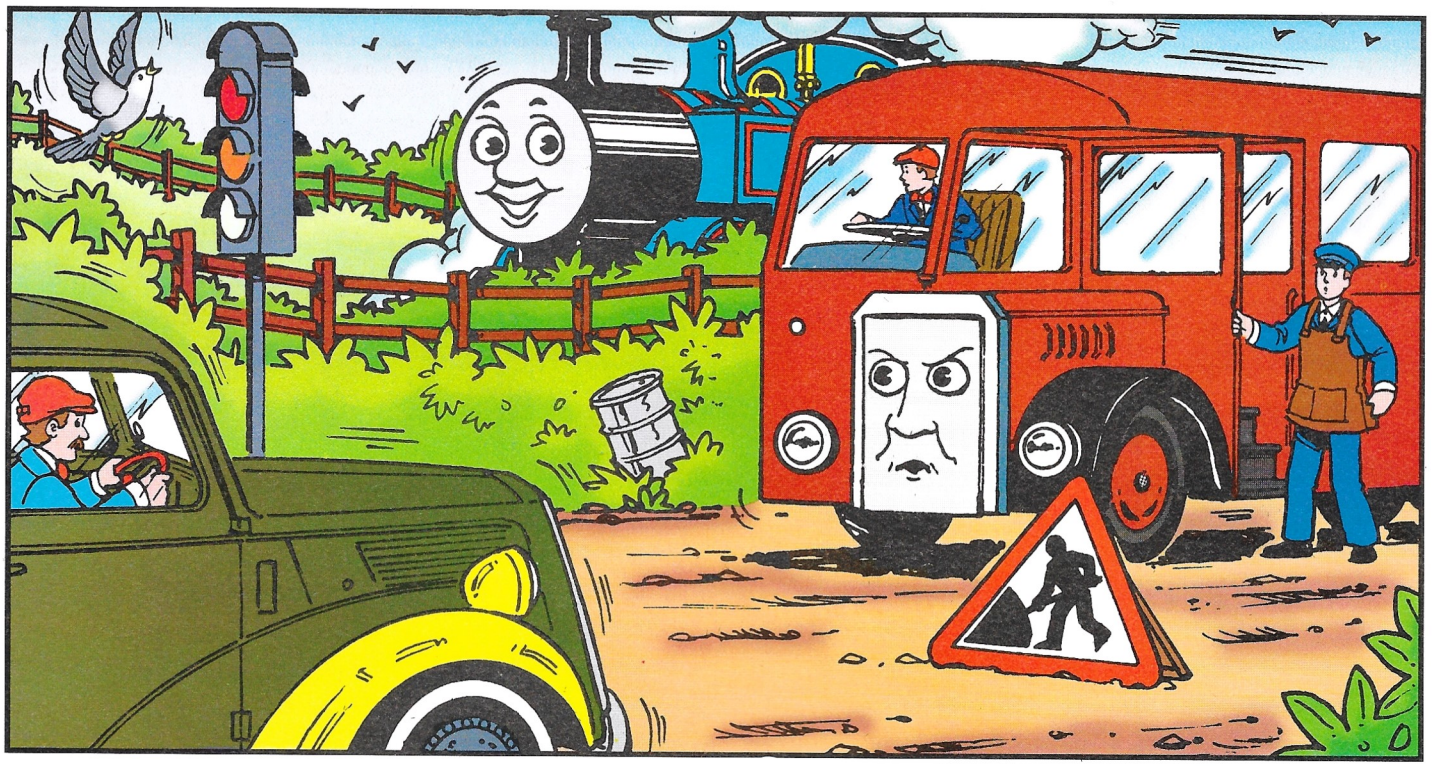
4. "Nonsense!" laughed Thomas. "Usually, I can race along my branch line. You have to watch out for traffic jams on the busy roads. Train travel is much better!"



5. Bertie smiled, "Not today, Thomas!" When all his passengers were safely aboard, Bertie drove off. "Goodbye, slowcoach-I mean Thomas!" said Bertie cheekily.

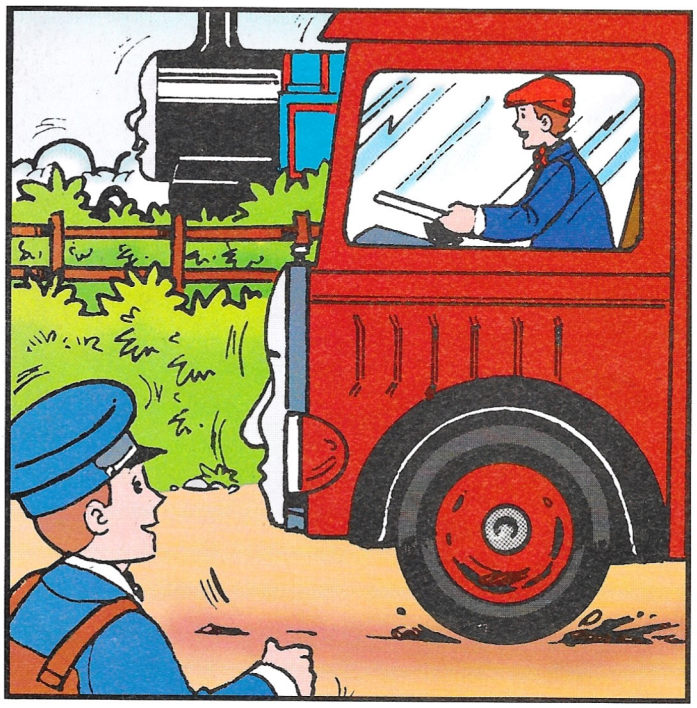


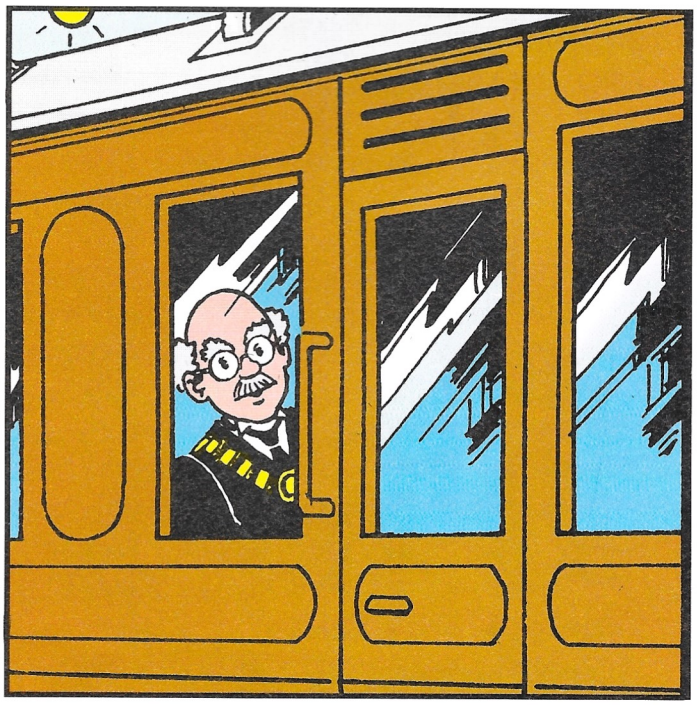
6. Thomas rolled past the workmen after the signal changed. "I'm going to be really late now!" he huffed. Thomas began to steam along so he could make up time.



7. Next day, Thomas's branch line had been fully repaired. Thomas ran right on schedule. He passed by Bertie, who was waiting by some road works.

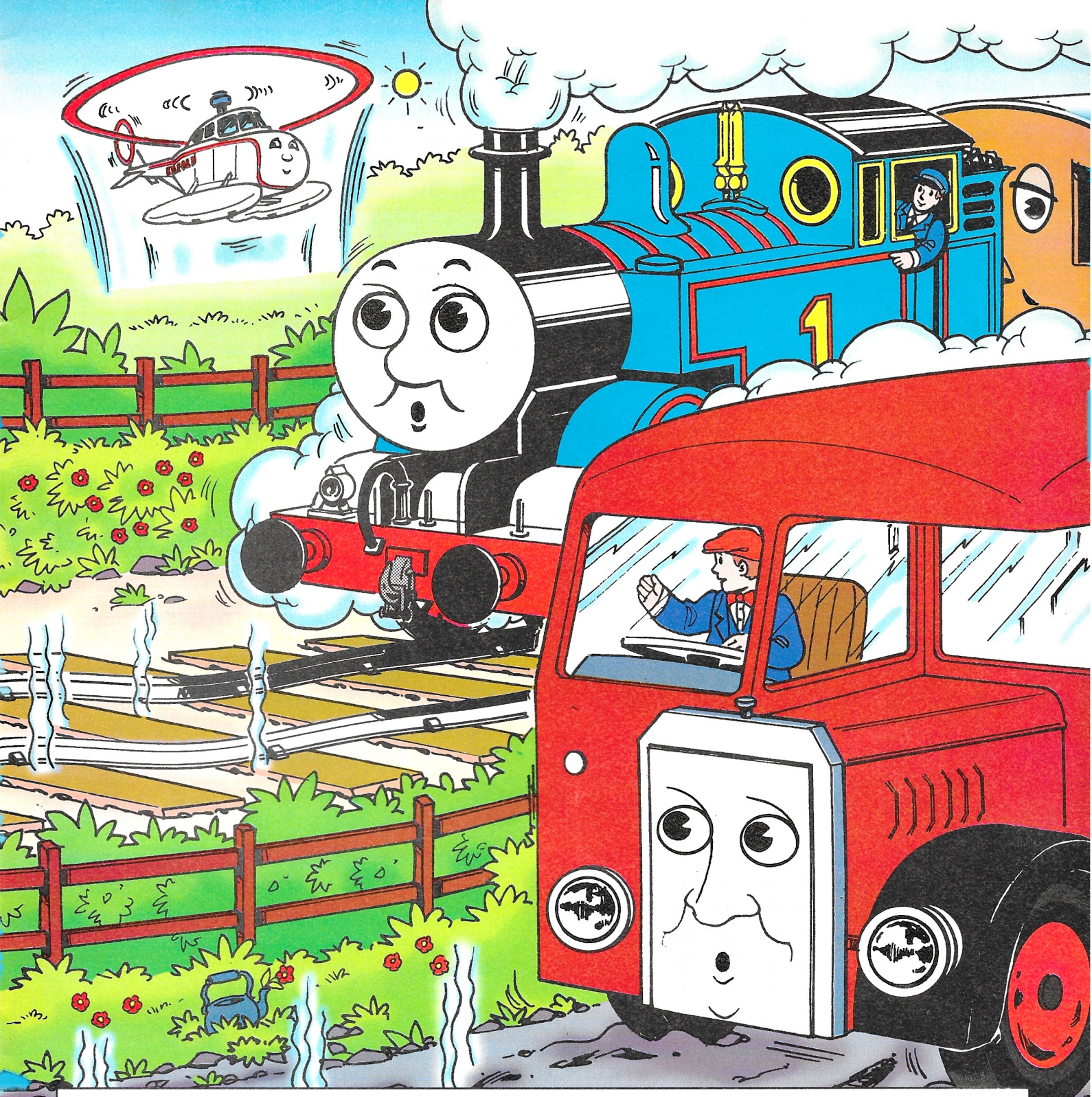
8. "What has four wheels but can't move?" called Thomas. "A bus!" "Very funny!" sulked Bertie. "I can't help it if there are delays! The road is being resurfaced!"





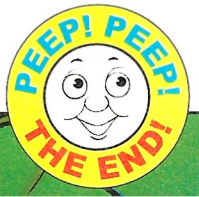
9. Bertie would not be able to continue his journey until a red traffic light had turned green. "Quick! It's time to go now!" teased Thomas, speeding past Bertie.

10. The following morning, the Mayor was being taken to Wellsworth by Thomas and Annie. The sun was sweltering and the rails felt hot on Thomas's wheels.



11. Suddenly, a signal warned Thomas to stop. "Look! The heat's buckled a new rail," shouted Thomas's driver. The Mayor was worried. "I mustn't be late!" he called. "I'm to open an exhibition." Then Bertie pulled up in the road nearby. "I'll go by bus instead!" said the Mayor. But Bertie couldn't move either.

12. The sun had melted the new tar on the road so Bertie's tyres sank into it. Thomas's guard rang for Harold the Helicopter who collected the Mayor. "Look at me! I go so fast, I don't even touch the ground!" boasted Harold. "Lucky you!" smiled Thomas. "Right now, I'm stuck to it!" joked Bertie.



Safety on the Island of Sodor!

Thomas and Bertie had to make many stops in our first story, but they also knew why it was important to wait at the signals and traffic lights. Look at the big picture opposite and the questions below! There are many other ways of staying safe on the Island of Sodor!

● Thomas waits at a signal. Do you know why? Look at James to help you find the answer.

● There is a safety barrier in this picture! Is the barrier up or down?

Road safety is very important, too! Bertie had to wait at special traffic lights because workmen were repairing the road.

● There are some traffic lights in the big picture. What colour are they flashing?

● Point to the zebra crossing in this picture! What do you think the flashing lights are for?

● There are 2 children in this picture who are behaving in a dangerous manner. What are they doing, and why is it dangerous?

Answers!

● To let James go by. ● Down. ● Red.
● To let people know that there is a foot-crossing.
● One is walking in the middle of the road and the other is kicking a football near the road and railway lines.

Wh
● Where is t
● If a level-crossing
● If you are riding a
● When does the tr

n the signal is pointing upwards.

t have you learned?

e safest place to cross the road?

arrier is down, what should the traffic do?

picycle, what should you wear for safety?

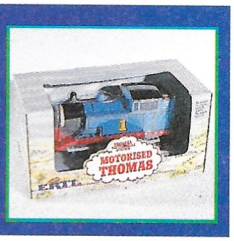
in driver know when to stop the engine?

Answers: ● a zebra crossing ● stop ● a cycling helmet ● whe

YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a splendid Thomas push and pull motorised engine!



Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite engines are Donald and Douglas. Where did they come from?
Love from **James Cook**, aged 7.
Donald and Douglas came from the Caledonian Railway, where they were originally built. When the Fat Controller gave them the same tasks to do, they both performed equally well so he decided to let them both work together on the railway.

FRIENDLY ENGINE!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite engine is Edward because he works very hard. Can you tell me more about him?
Love from **Robert Thomas**, aged 5.
Edward is one of my senior engines! He works very hard and is very kind to all the other engines. When they have accidents, Edward is often there to help them! He is the most reliable engine on my railway.

SPECIAL SERVICES!

Dear Fat Controller,
Please can you tell me why Daisy was built and who her best friends are?
Love from **Luke Waldie**, aged 6.
Daisy is a modern diesel railcar who was built to carry passengers on the Ffarquhar branch line. Daisy works with Thomas and Boco and they are all very good friends!

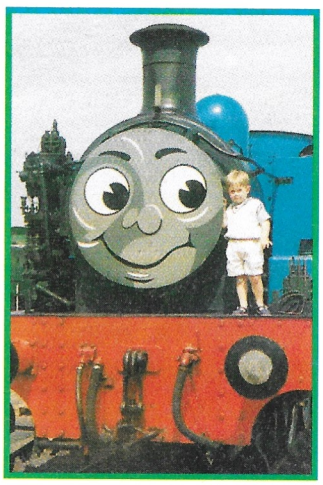


PHOTO OF THE FORTNIGHT!

Dear Fat Controller,
This picture was taken of me with Thomas at the Nene Valley Railway.
Love from Ryan Long, aged 4.

BIRTHDAYS!

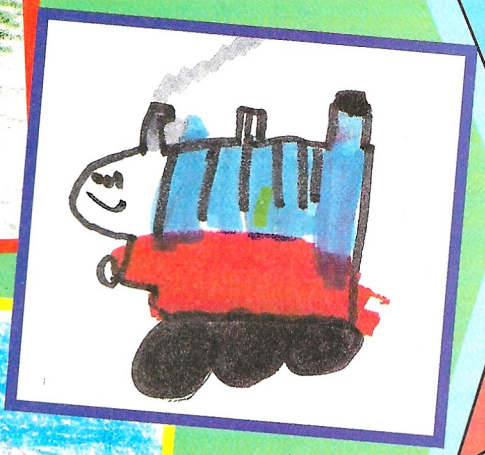
Birthday greetings go out to...

Alexander Vafiadis, Robert and Gemma Steel, David Tinley, Edward Martin, Amy Richards, Jamie Harvey and Richard Colley.

Drawing Board!

Thank you for sending your smashing drawings and pictures to the Fat Controller's Drawing Board!

Andrew Wright, aged 6, has drawn a great picture of James, the red engine, pulling a milk tanker!



Look at Oliver puffing along on his busy branch line! Michael Byron Hehir, aged 5, has sent us this colourful drawing!

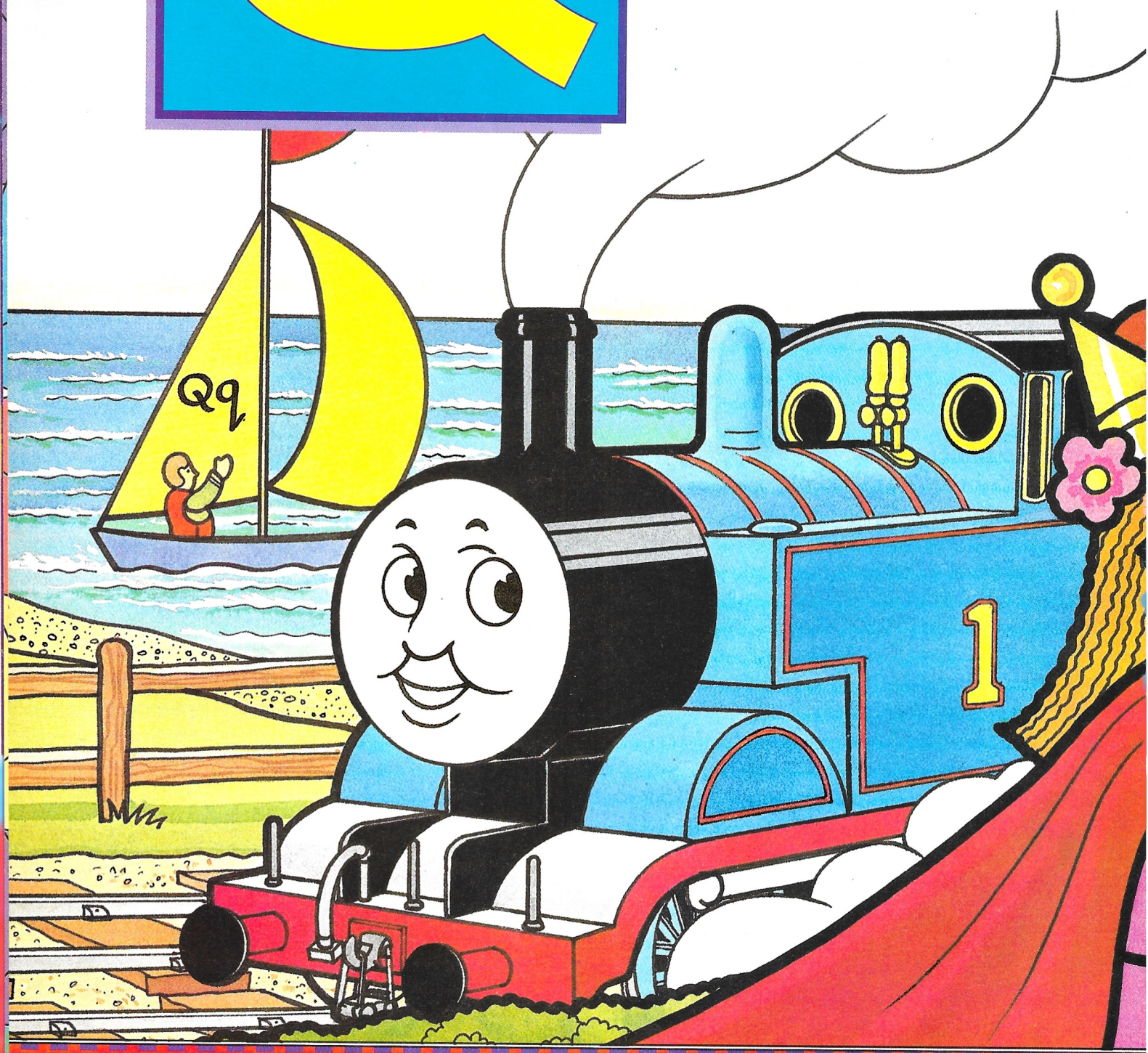
Peter Doyle, aged 5, has painted a splendid little picture of Thomas. Thank you, Peter!

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special Thomas Changing Picture Book!

If you would like to have your drawing or painting displayed on this page, then please send your entries to: *The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.*

CUT-OUT AND KEEP

Q is fo



Which engine can you see?
How many children are in this picture?
What is the girl dressed up as? The answer begins with the letter 'Q'!

What colour
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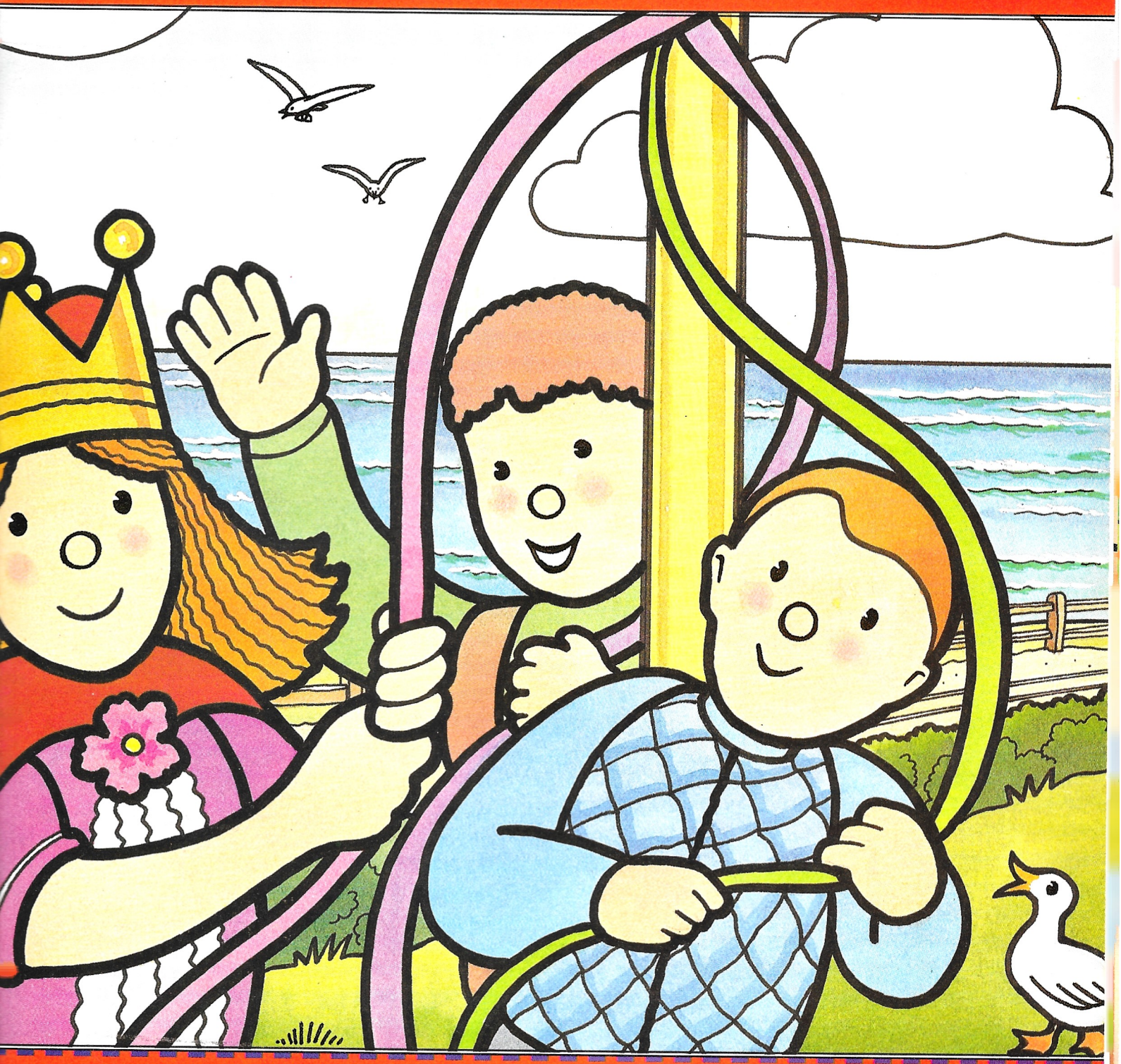
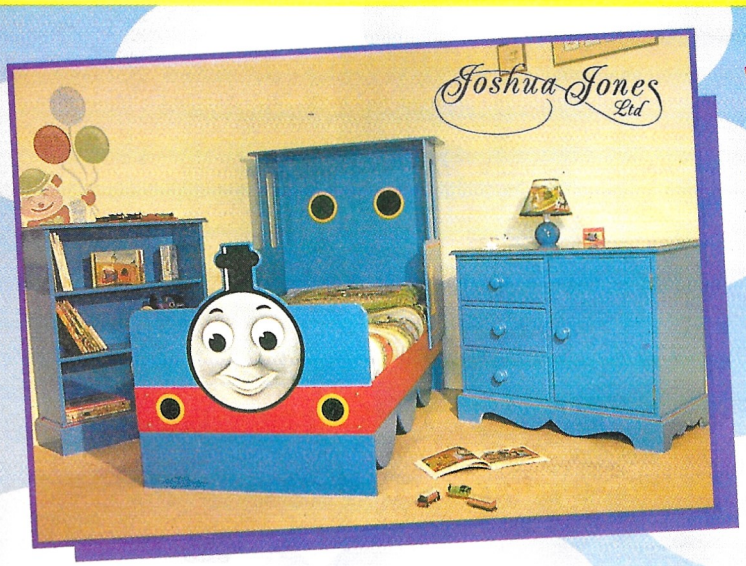


e the sailing-boat's sails?
gulls can you count?
the girl's cape?
ducks make?

This centre spread should be cut out, as it forms part of a continuous scene for your child's bedroom, play group or classroom.

Win Win Win Win W

a Thomas bed!



We are offering you a great chance to win one of 3 fantastic prizes! Our 1st prize winner will receive a splendid Thomas bed. Each single size bed is approximately (2' 6" x 6' 3" - mattress not supplied).

Plus, our 2 runners-up will each receive an attractive Thomas bedhead which can be attached to standard 3' divans.

For your chance to win one of these superb prizes, all you have to do is answer the question below:

Read our story 'The flying visitors!' What type of bird makes its nest in the sand quarry? Is it... a) sparrow, b) starling or c) sand-martin?

Send your answers on a postcard along with your name, age and address to: Joshua Jones/Thomas Bed Competition, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13 -15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.

Entries should arrive before 19th May, 1995.

The first three correct answers drawn from our postbag will win these fabulous prizes.

These products are also available by mail order. For further information please contact: Joshua Jones Ltd., 1F. Bailie Gate, Sturminster Marshall, Wimborne, Dorset or telephone 0258 858470.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of Joshua Jones Ltd. and Marvel comics Ltd. We cannot accept any responsibility for entries lost or damaged in the post. All entrants are bound by the rules. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

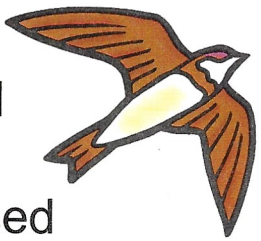
The flying visitors!

It had been a long, hard winter on the Island of Sodor. Duck was steaming along a cliff top on his branch line, by the Tidmouth sea. Suddenly, he spotted some little birds that flew inland.

"Look! I haven't seen those types of birds since last summer!" he cried, happily. "There doesn't seem to be as many of them this year," added Duck.

sand-martin

Duck also wondered what sort of birds they were and why there were less of them than the year before. Soon, a signal warned him to stop. There was a points failure ahead. Duck had to carry on along a quiet loop line he had never used before. It went past an old, disused sand quarry.



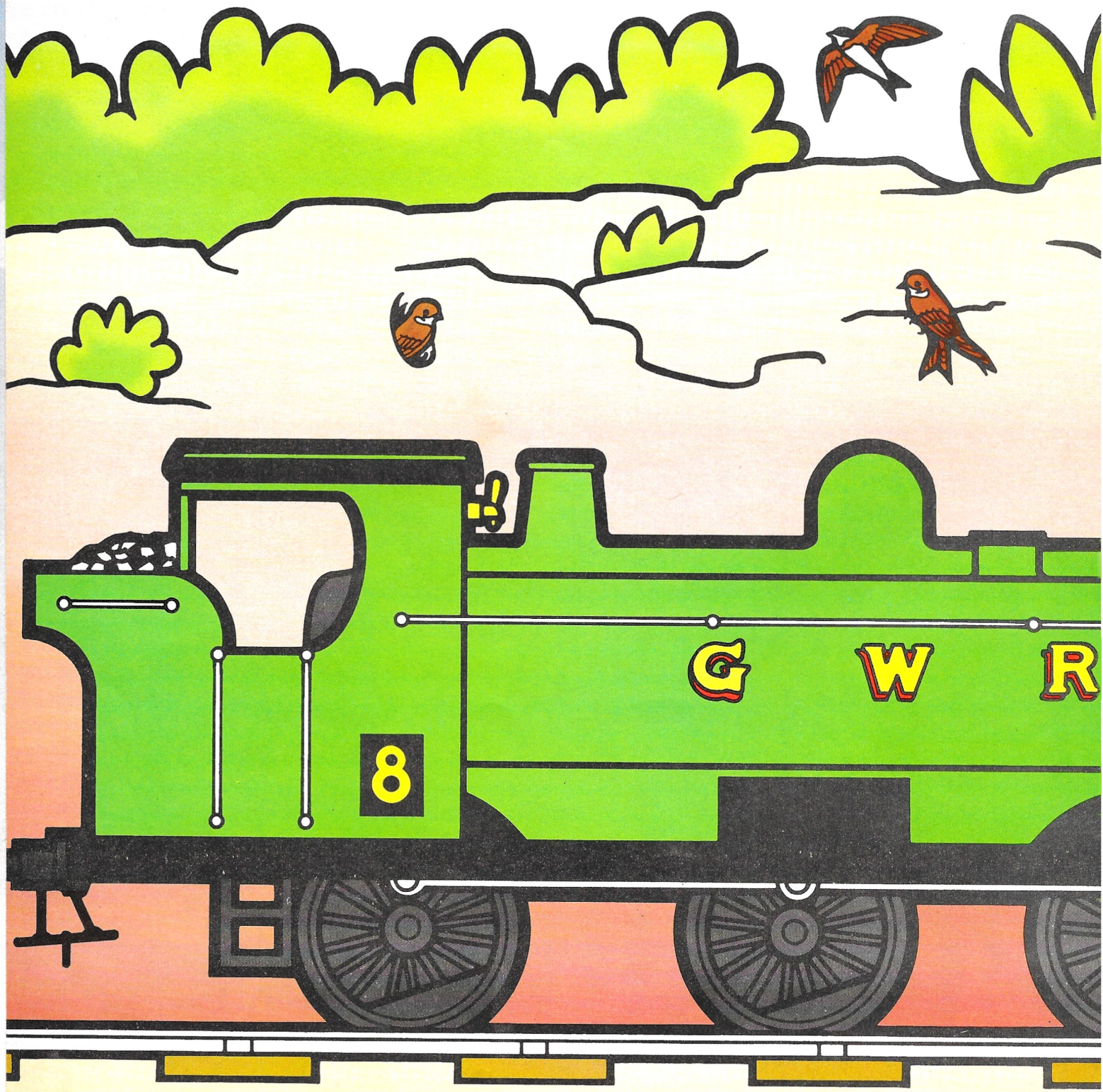
Later, Duck spoke to his driver about the birds. The driver went to ask a friend, who was an expert bird-watcher.

"He said they are sand-martins," Duck's driver explained, next morning. "They go somewhere warmer for the winter. Then they come back to nest here in groups, called colonies. Sand-martins tunnel into soft, sandy cliffs with their beaks and feet, to build their nests. The cliffs on your coastal branch line are too hard for them. That's why there aren't as many this year."

"What about that old sand quarry we saw? They could

nest there?" said Duck.

"What a great idea!" said Duck's driver. Later, they went to see the Fat Controller, who rang the owner of the quarry. The quarry owner wanted to help. So Duck pulled a works train to the quarry and men cleared away the undergrowth so some tall, sandy walls could be seen.

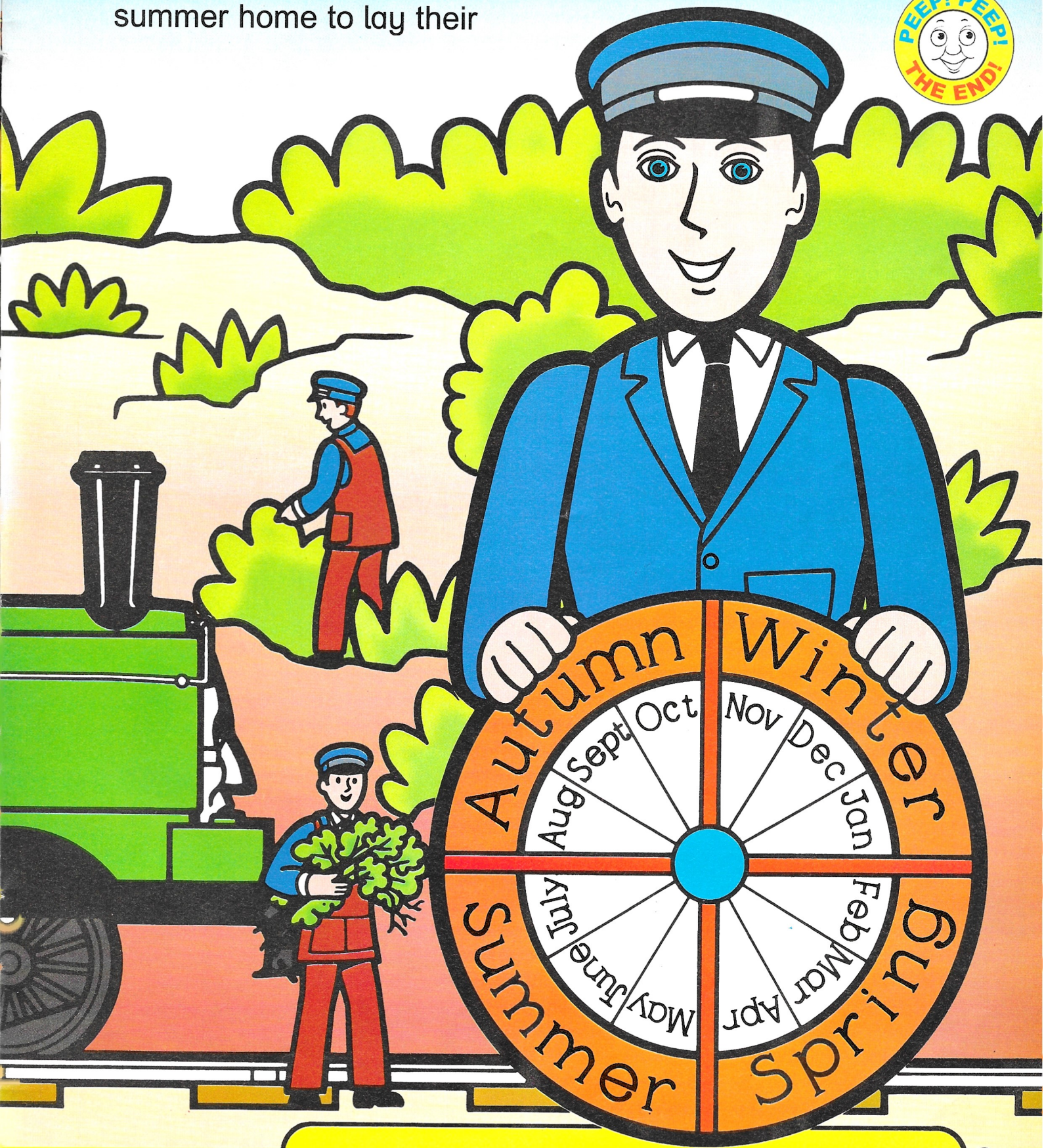


■ Look at the guard's wheel. It divides the four se

Before long, the sand-martins had made holes all over them.

"Thanks to you, Duck, the birds have a perfect summer home to lay their eggs in peace and hatch their chicks," said his driver.

"The sand quarry has never been busier," smiled Duck.



sons of the year. How many months are there in a season?

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Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 6 months (12 issues) and receive the 13th issue absolutely FREE!

I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for: 6 months (12 Issues & 13th issue FREE) for £12.00 (£20.00 overseas).

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.....

..... Post code ..... Date of birth.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my Visa/Mastercard or call Credit card hotline on 0858 410510.

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

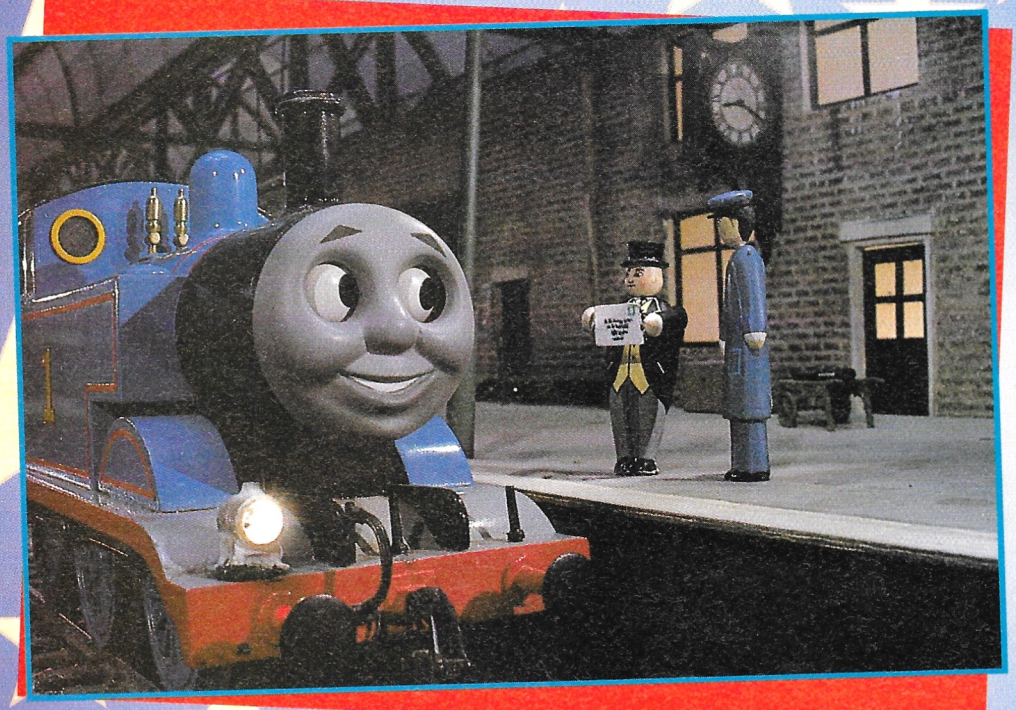
Parent's/donors name Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... Address (if different from child's)

.....

.....Post code .....

Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.

Peep! Peep! Check your timetable and don't miss..

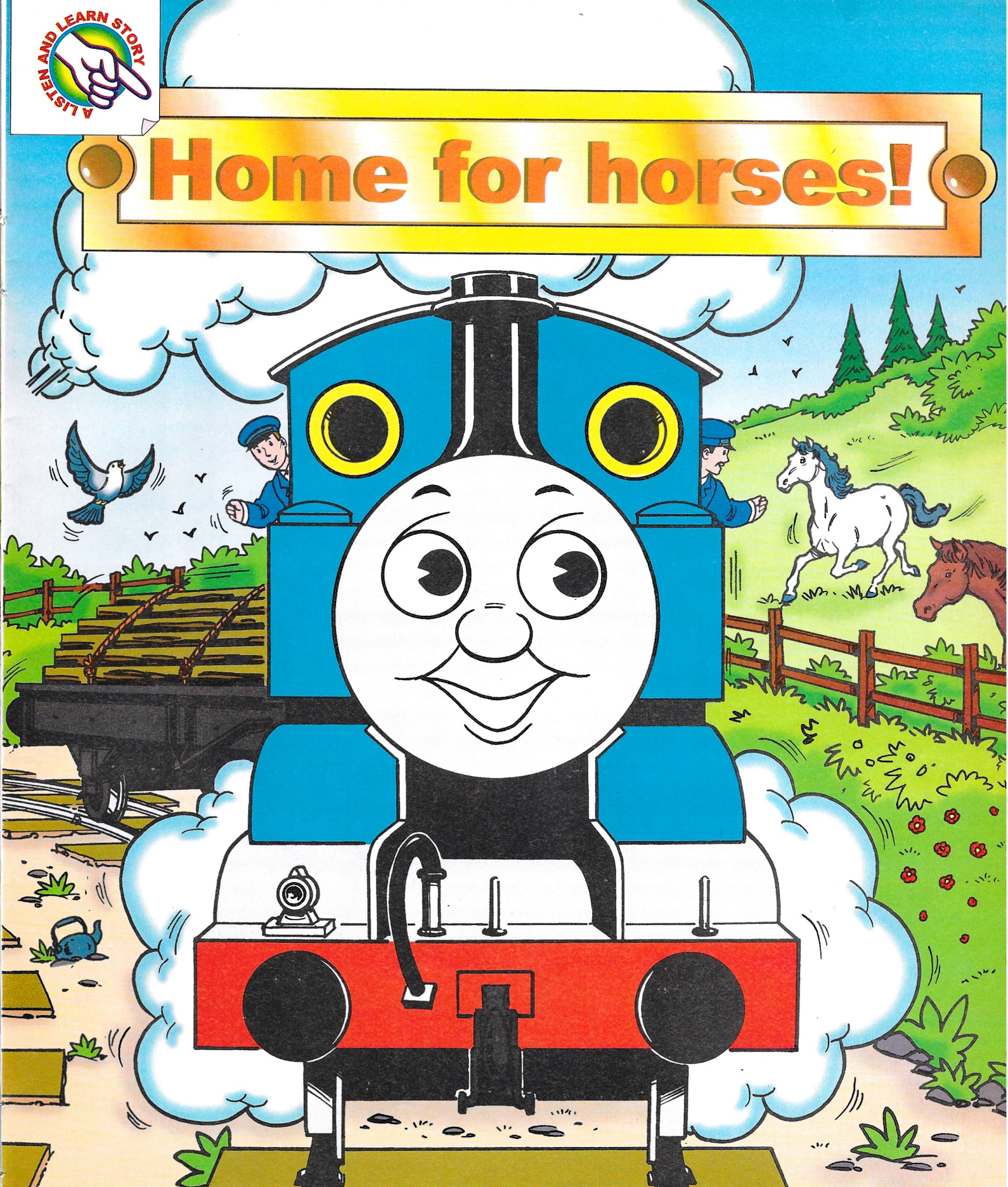


issue 198 of...

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

- Make a model engine!
- Our next mural features the letter 'R'
- Win a Thomas playhouse!
- Splendid Thomas Poster!

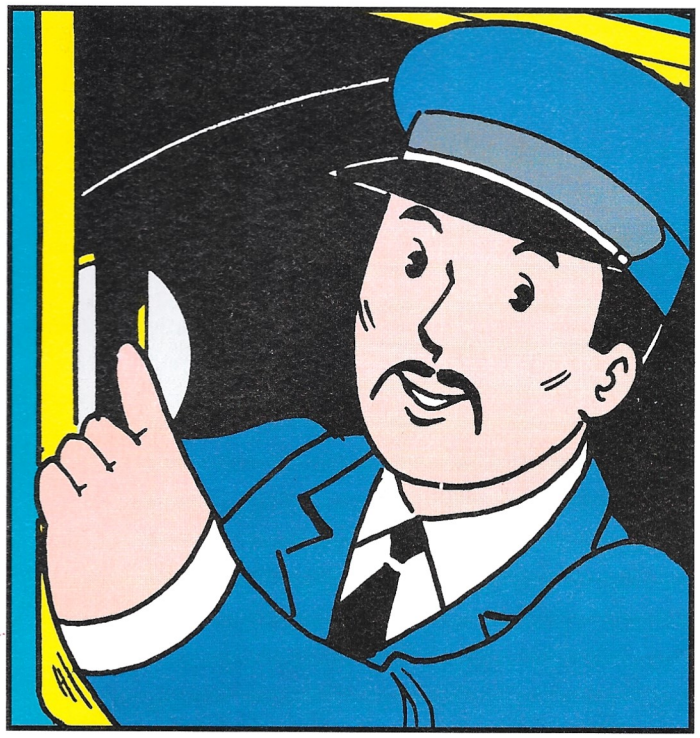
On sale May 6th, 1995!



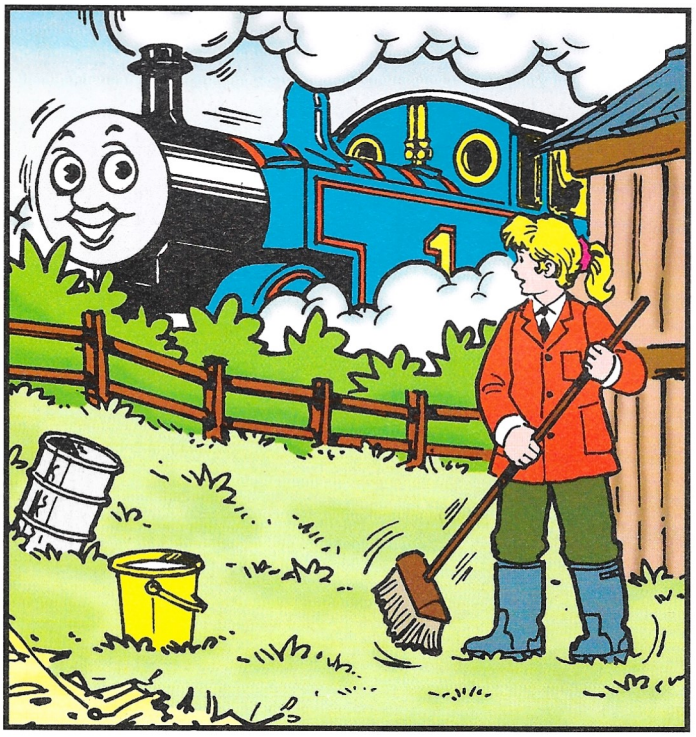
Home for horses!

1. Thomas was visiting the Island of Sodor sawmill. He saw a field full of horses on his journey to the sawmill. They were too old to work or be ridden any more.

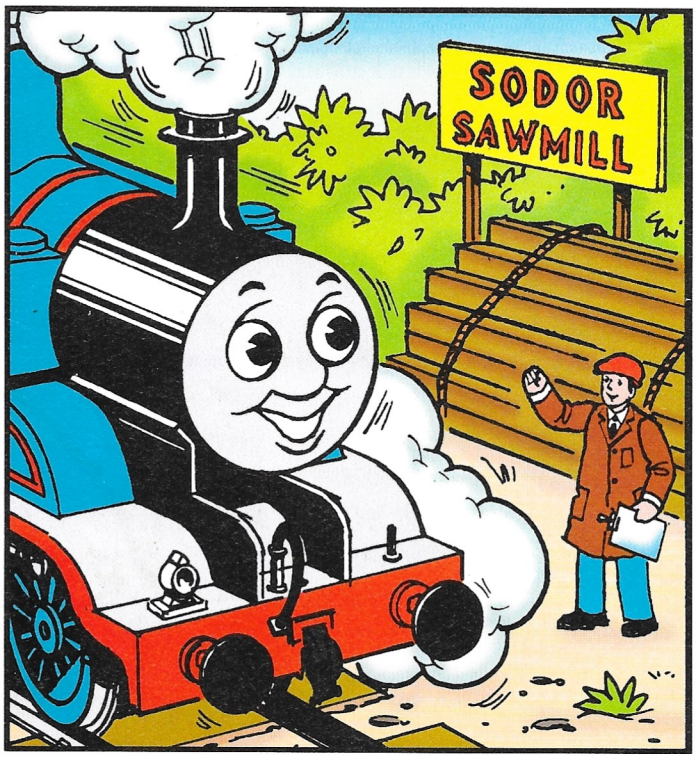
2. The horses were Thomas's friends. They would trot down to the railway embankment to see him go past. "Peep! Peep! Hello!" called Thomas.



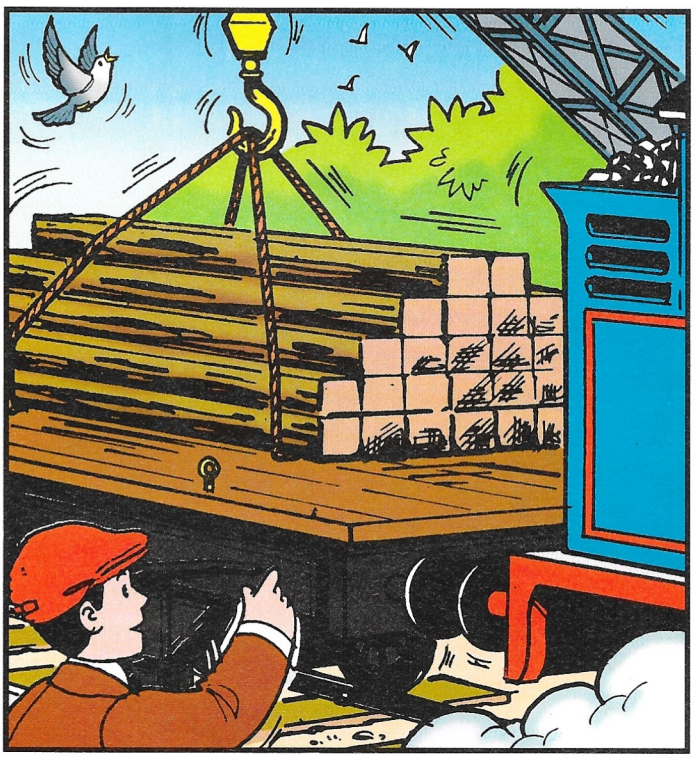
3. Thomas's driver noticed that a lady was sweeping out one of the old barns in the field. "It's Mrs Gray!" said the driver. "She cares for any wild or retired horses!"



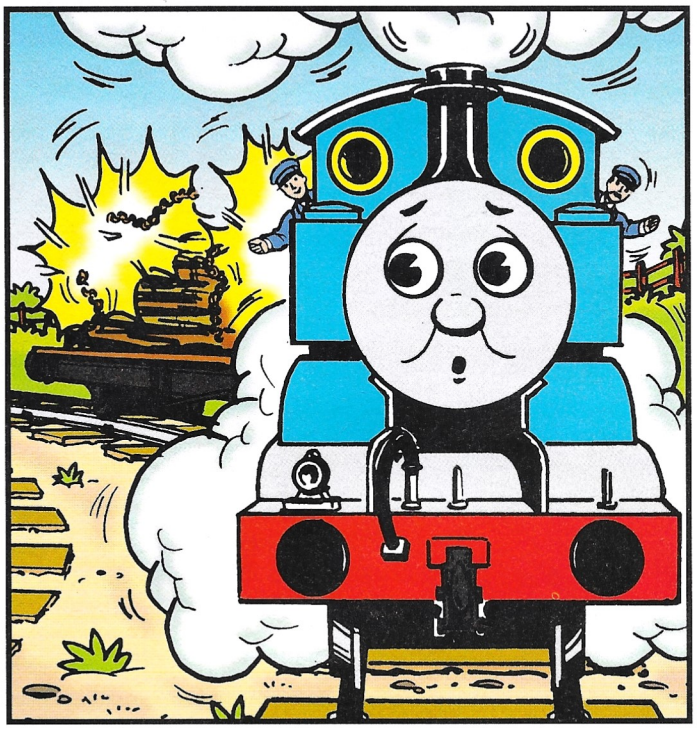
4. Mrs Gray spoke to Thomas's driver while Thomas waited at a signal by the barn. "I wish I could afford new stables for my horses! These barns are old and leaky!"



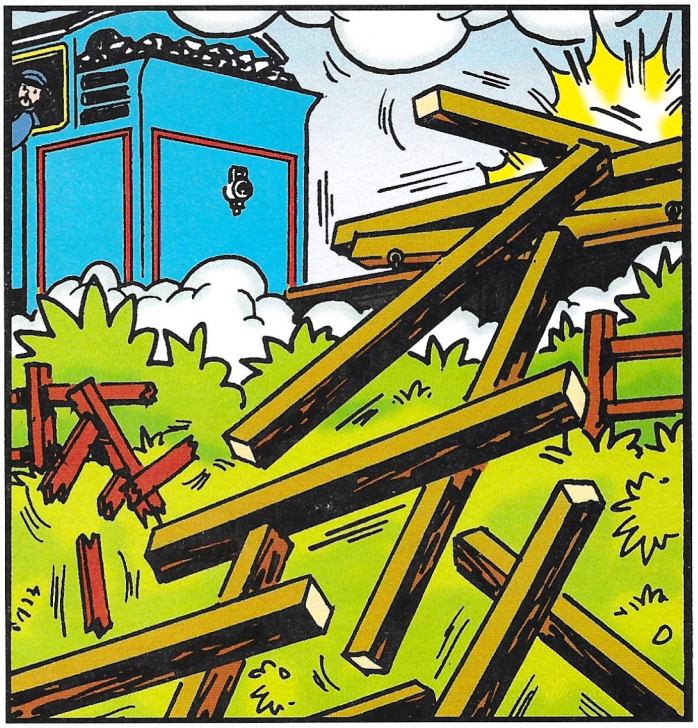
5. "It's a shame!" said Thomas, who soon puffed on his way. He was to collect some new wooden railway sleepers which had been cut at the Island of Sodor sawmill.



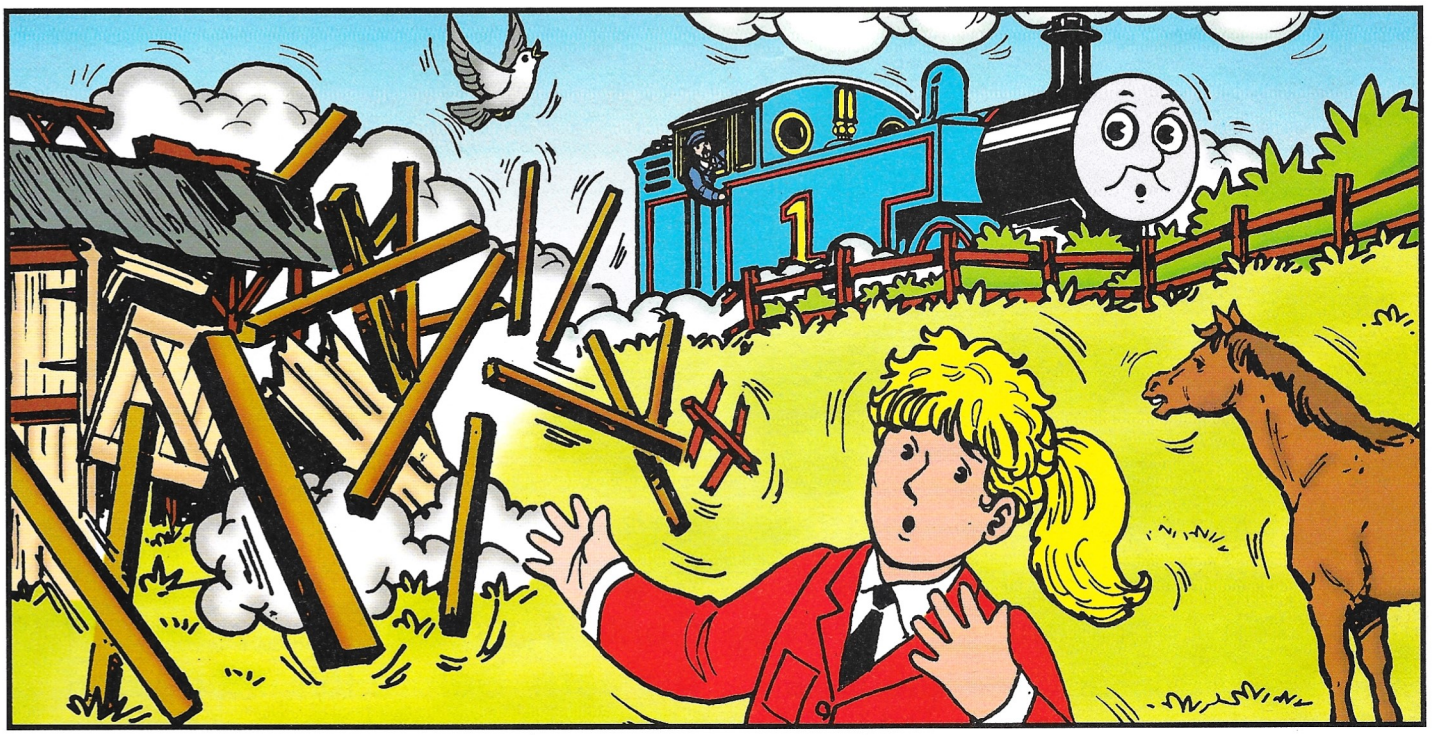
6. At the sawmill, a crane loaded the railway sleepers on to Thomas's open truck. The workman chained them to the truck and Thomas then steamed back down the line.



7. Thomas soon passed by the old barn again. But as he puffed around the bend, Thomas's heavy load shifted. "Look out!" he cried. Suddenly, the chains snapped.



8. The sleepers fell off the truck and rolled down the steep embankment. Thomas gave a loud whistle to warn Mrs Gray and the horses. "PEEP! PEEP!"

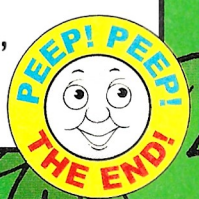


9. There was a sound of timber splitting as the sleepers ripped through the fence and smashed into the barn! Luckily, Mrs Gray had taken the horses to the field!

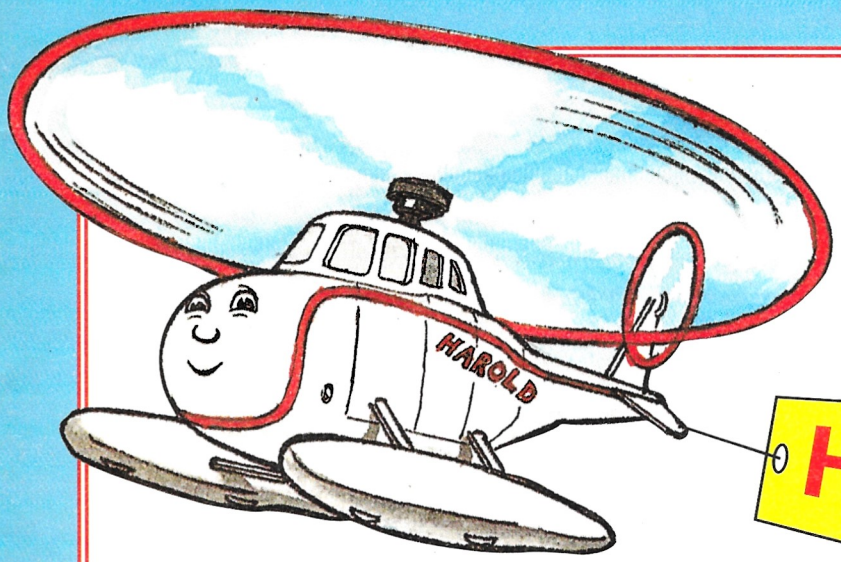
10. The barn shook and part of it fell down. "Oh, no!" gasped Thomas. "At least no one was hurt!" said his driver. "We'll have to telephone for help!"

11. Shortly, James arrived with workmen and a crane to lift the sleepers back on to Thomas's truck. The Fat Controller arrived, too. "Now my horses will have no shelter at all!" sighed Mrs Gray. "We'll repair it for you," said the Fat Controller, "as Thomas's unfortunate accident caused the damage."

12. "I've a better idea, sir!" called Thomas excitedly. Thomas went to get more wood while the Fat Controller's men pulled down the barn. Before long, they had built new stables for the horses. Mrs Gray was delighted. Then a special sign was hung up. It read: "Built by friends of Thomas the Tank Engine!"

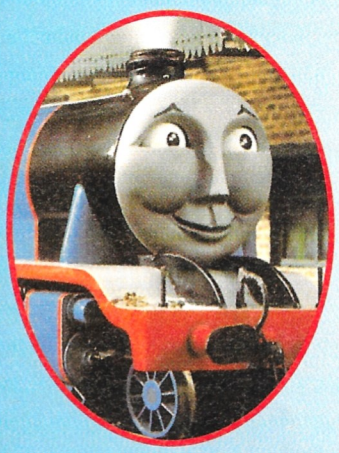


Friends of Thomas:
Harold the Helicopter!



Harold has always lived and worked on the Island of Sodor. His duties are to assist the Fat Controller, which he does very efficiently. Harold has always been a good friend to all the engines!

Harold



Harold can prevent accidents! Gordon remembers the time when Harold warned him that a lorry had broken down at the level-crossing ahead. The Express Engine avoided a nasty collision.

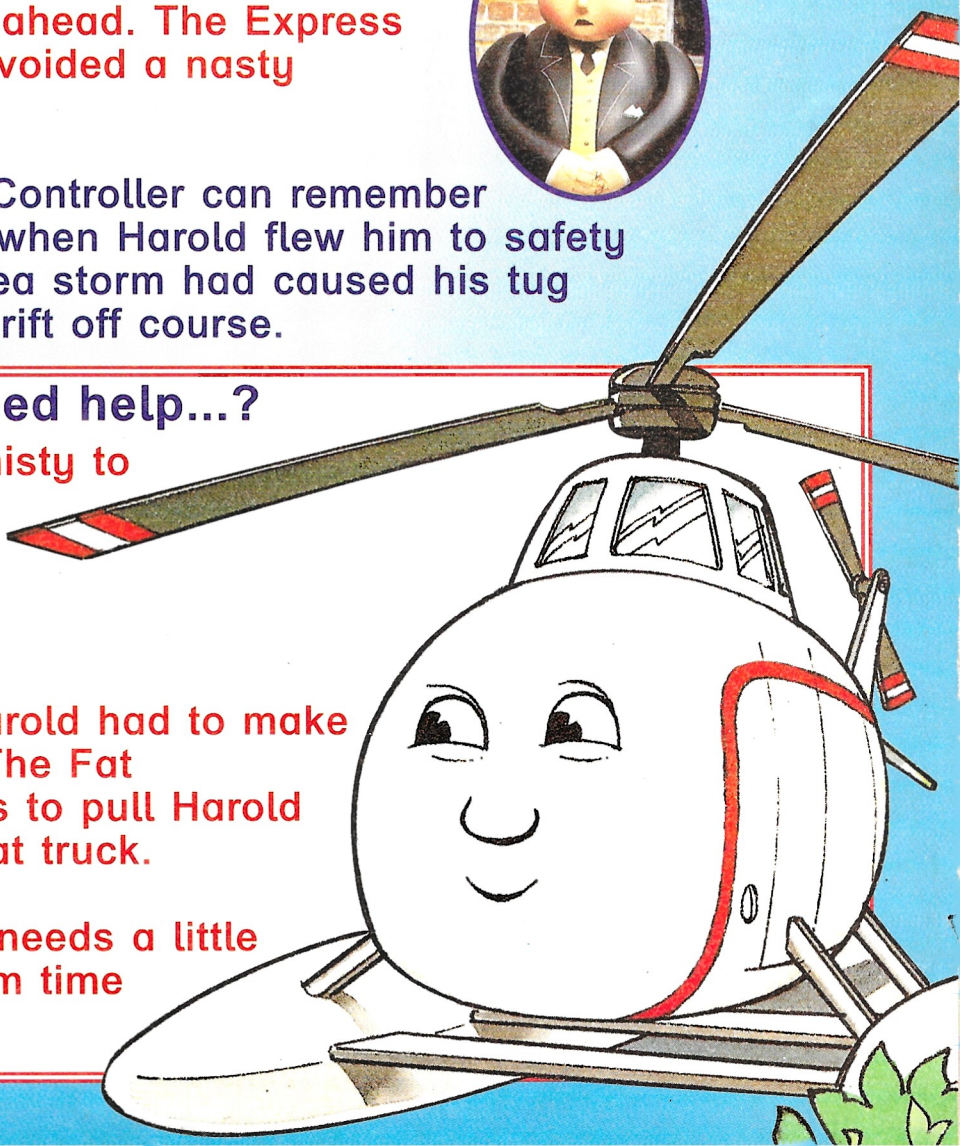
The Fat Controller can remember the time when Harold flew him to safety after a sea storm had caused his tug boat to drift off course.

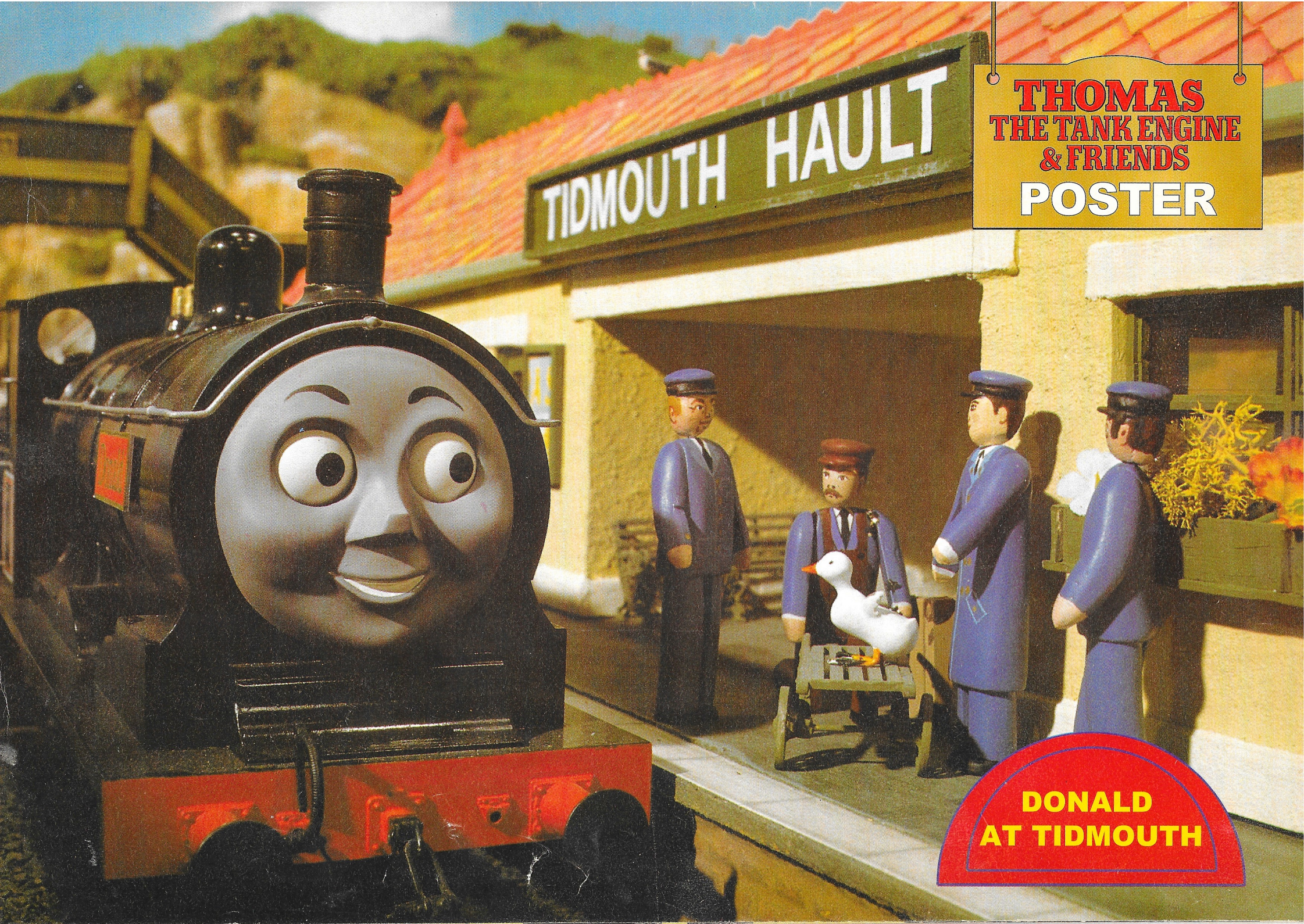
Does Harold ever need help...?

Once, when it was too misty to fly, Thomas had to use a special truck to give Harold a lift back to the airfield!

On another occasion, Harold had to make an emergency landing! The Fat Controller ordered James to pull Harold back to his airfield by flat truck.

So it seems that Harold needs a little help from his friends from time to time, too!




TIDMOUTH HAULT
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
POSTER
DONALD
AT TIDMOUTH